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AUTHORITY: HR 70-2

REVIEWER: 019360 DATE: 11/2/80

September 19, 1950

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TO: Assistant Director  
The Central Intelligence Agency  
Office of Reports and Estimates

FROM: The Department of State  
Office of Intelligence Research

SUBJECT: Request for Estimate of the Military Capabilities  
of the Chinese Communists with Respect to Korea

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Reference is made to our memorandum of September 12, 1950, requesting on behalf of the Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs an inter-departmental intelligence estimate on the capabilities and intentions of the Chinese Communists with respect to Korea, which the Bureau asked to be ready by September 28.

In the light of the significantly changed Korean situation created as a result of the recent landings by United Nations forces in areas near the 38th Parallel, the Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs now cancels the above mentioned request. It asks, instead, that there be prepared, on a much more urgent basis, a brief interdepartmental intelligence estimate focused more narrowly on the current military capabilities and posture of the Chinese Communist forces with respect to Korea. Specifically, the Bureau would like the estimate to include the best available information as to the size of the combat forces which the Chinese Communists now have available in Manchuria (with an indication of the number actually poised near the Korean frontier) and the extent to which they are equipped, with particular reference to what they would need for operations in Korea. In other words, the Bureau needs an evaluation of the extent to which the Chinese Communists may be mounting a real threat of military invasion of Korea and the type of operations that they seem capable of carrying out, either south or north of the 38th Parallel. The Bureau has already found useful CIA's IM No. 324 of September 8, entitled, Probability of Direct Chinese Communist Intervention in Korea, but it feels that the changed Korean situation creates an urgent need for a more definitive appraisal of the immediate capabilities of the Chinese Communists for armed intervention in Korea.

The Bureau asks that the estimate be ready not later than noon, September 22.

*Maneuver*  
Allan Evans  
Director  
Office of Intelligence Research

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Document # 5  
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*cc sent to D/Beh &  
D/BE for action - 20 Sep.*